

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

ADVISORY GROUP: Read to Achieve

MEETING DATE: June 3, 2013

LIAISON: Judy Halasek

NOTE-TAKER/CONTACT: Judy Halasek

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Lindy Harmon – Committee Chair, Lena Wilson, Cheri Murrey, Carla Purcell, Janice Almasi, Kathy Mansfield, Kim Willhoite, Kathi Haley, Johnny Collett, Kathy Garrett

GUESTS: Judy Embry, Gala Catron, April Pieper, Judy Halasek

Agenda Item: Introduction of new members

Discussion/Action: Cheri Murrey, Kathi Haley, and Kathy Mansfield introduced themselves. Kristen Perry was unable to attend.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: Travel/Substitute Reimbursement Forms

Discussion/Action: Forms were in packets and Judy Halasek reviewed the procedure for reimbursement.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: Approve Minutes of April Meeting

Discussion/Action: Kim Willhoite moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Carla Purcell seconded. Motion was approved.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: KPREP Data Maps

Discussion/Action: Johnny Collett discussed data maps of gap groups created by the Commissioner's Delivery Unit.

Key Questions/Concerns: The committee asked for a narrative explaining the maps. They also asked for KPREP data from each RTA school.

Agenda Item: Program Evaluation Highlights

Discussion/Action: Lindy Harman asked that this issue be tabled so discussion could center on the RFA.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: Discussion of RFA

Discussion/Action: Members looked at the draft of the RFA and offered suggestions and corrections.

Key Questions/Concerns: The following changes to the draft were suggested:

Change the word "program" to "intervention" throughout the document.

On page 3 change the order of #2 and #3 so the universal screener is discussed first.

On page 3 add the words (recommended 3-4 students) after *small groups*.

On page 4 change the phrase *the intervention teacher may lead literacy trainings within the school*.

Committee members asked for more time to review the RFA. Committee members will email any items they feel need to be changed to April Pieper or Judy Halasek by Friday morning, June 7, 2013. April and Judy will compile these changes and send them back to committee members on Monday June 10th for an afternoon conference call.

Other Items (can include items not on formal agenda, action to be taken, next steps, food for thought):

Charlie Harman spoke to the group about the funding for RTA. He reported that currently the grant is funded at \$17,899,000. \$2,197,000 goes to assist low performing schools, \$85,000 covers the salary and benefits of the RTA coordinator, and \$15,617,000 goes to the grant. He asked for a recommendation from the group of the funding needed to fulfill the intent of the grant. The following recommendation was drafted by the group.

*According to goals established in **KRS 158.6451** it is the intent of the General Assembly that every elementary school provide diagnostic reading assessments and intervention services for those students who need them in order to learn to read at the proficient level. In order to prepare the lowest achieving primary students at ALL elementary schools in the state to be college and career ready it is the recommendation of the Read to Achieve steering committee that the Department of Education requests funding in the amount of 45 million dollars to support full implementation of the RTA initiative. The earlier that struggling readers receive intervention during primary grades the greater the likelihood that they will meet with success in postsecondary opportunities.*

Lindy Harmon adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm charging the committee members to submit other suggestions to the draft to Judy Halasek at KDE by Friday, June 7. A conference call will be held Monday, June 10 to finalize other suggestions.